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THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes.

Edited by SYLVIA PANKHURST.

No. 3. SATURDAY, APRIL 4TH, 1914. PRICE ONE HALFPENNY.

Great Demonstration

SUNDAY, APRIL 5th,

To demand Votes for Women and to protest against the misuse of the Police Force.

PROCESSION

BECKTON ROAD CANNING TOWN form up 2.45, march 3.15.

EAST INDIA DOCK GATES, POPLAR form up 3.15, march 3.45, via Chrisp St., Morris Rd., Violet Rd., Widow's Son Bridge, Devons Rd., Bow Rd., Fairfield Rd., Lefevre Rd., Roman Rd.,

28 FORD ROAD, BOW, form up 4 p.m., march 4.30 via Roman Rd., Old Ford Rd., to

VICTORIA PARK

Mass Meeting at 5 p.m.

SPEAKERS:

Miss SYLVIA PANKHURST Mrs. LEIGH
Mr. G. LANSBURY Miss PATERSON
Mrs. WALKER Mrs. PARSONS
Mr. JOHN SCURR and others.

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS.

Monday, April 6th., 8 p.m.....Hackney, Swiss Cottage, Victoria Park. — Mr. Jane.
8 p.m., Bow, Priscilla Road.
Tuesday, April 7th., 8 p.m., .. Poplar, East India Dock Gates. — Mr. Mewett.
8 p.m., Bow, Out and Out Hall, Tredegar Road. — Mr. Laskie.
8 p.m., Canning Town, Freemason' oad. —Miss Feek.
8 p.m., Limehouse, Burdett Rd., & Road Mrs. Walker.
Wednesday, April 8th. 8 p.m., Poplar, East India Dock Road. Miss Lynch.
8 p.m., Crowder's Hall, 173 Bow Road.
8 p.m., Bromley, Chrisp Street, and Charles Street. — Miss Gibson.

WHAT RENTS!

Every working woman knows that the high rents that are charged, especially in East London, make serious inroads on the housekeeping money. The *Daily Herald* reports that in the Essex Street district of Shoreditch, there are certain dilapidated six-roomed houses where unfurnished rooms are let out at 10d. an eight-hour shift. Thus in twenty-four hours three separate families in rotation use each room. 2/6 a day of 12/6 a week can be made out of each room, and £5 5s. a week for each house. Of course the rooms are not always let for each shift, but it is said 12/- to 14/- a week per room is commonly made and that 300 people at one time have been known to be lodged in five of these houses.

It is time that women had the power to insist upon drastic changes in housing conditions. The "no vote, no rent" strike is the most powerful and appropriate weapon for securing this power. Those who will join the strike when the right time comes should fill up the form below.

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Address.....

.....

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I rent unfurnished rooms from my landlord or landlady.

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LODGERS,
CONVERT the LANDLADY
that she may STRIKE with the rest.

MEN AND WOMEN JOIN THE PEOPLE'S ARMY.

All particulars—

321 Roman Road, Bow, E.

FREE SPEECH IN THE RATEPAYERS' HALLS?

In the Borough of Bow, Bromley and Poplar there are only three large meeting halls—Bow Baths, Bromley Public Hall and Poplar Town Hall. These halls belong to the ratepayers and, until recently, were let free of charge on the requisition of twenty ratepayers. On October 13th last I was speaking in Bow Baths, when police constables with truncheons drawn and detectives with heavy sticks, who wished to arrest me under the Cat and Mouse Act, rushed on to the platform from behind the heavy curtains at the back and began striking everyone within reach. Mrs. Mary Leigh was beaten till she was unconscious, Mrs. Ives' arm was broken, Miss Forbes Robertson's arm was broken, Miss Emerson's skull was fractured, and many men and women were hurt. Some of the constables were seen to wantonly break up the ratepayer's chairs.

On November 5th, after a further term in Holloway I again spoke in Bow Baths. As I and the audience left the hall, the police brutally attacked and bludgeoned the people in the Roman Road, several people being badly hurt.

The Borough Council had already discussed the question of refusing to let the halls for Votes for Women meetings, and they now passed a resolution to that effect. This resolution was afterwards withdrawn and another substituted, under which all Suffrage societies or societies thought to be in sympathy with the Suffragettes are obliged, as a condition of using the halls, to give a written pledge that militancy shall not be advocated and that no one wanted by the police shall be allowed to speak. This pledge is not enforced in the case of Unionist militants and when I wrote to the Mayor during the Poplar Bye-Election, to point out the special injustice of refusing the halls to any society taking part in the Election, the official reply referred to the new rules as: "Rules Governing Suffragette Meetings."

The rules are being enforced against every Suffrage society and also against the B.S.P. and other Labour and Socialist organisations.

There is no blinking the fact that the Borough Council have abolished the right of free speech in the Public Halls, for the right of free speech is the right to say what one believes, whether it is liked, or approved, by the Government (and the Borough Council), or no.

But it is probable that this resolution has no legal standing. It is doubtful whether the Council has legally the power to make restrictions as to the uses to which the ratepayers halls may be put, by means of a mere resolution.

This is a matter which must be enquired into.

Not content with refusing to allow free speech, the Councillors have also abolished the old system of granting the free use of the halls on the requisition of twenty ratepayers.

This is causing great hardship to the smaller organisations of working people in the Borough, who can ill afford to pay the fees.

The people of Bow, Bromley and Poplar have grave reason to complain of the police brutality in this district, and it is necessary that the Borough Council should explain whether they or the Scotland Yard authorities were responsible for the raid on Bow Baths on October 13th, the bludgeoning of the people in Roman Road on November 5th, and the breaking up of the Suffragist procession in Tomlin's Grove on December 14th. When the processionists of December 14th reached Tomlin's Grove, I am informed that they found the street lamps were not lighted, though lamps were lit in other streets; that as the procession reached the house of Councillor LeManquais, they were attacked by a strong force of police who were waiting there, and that at the same moment about twenty mounted police rode against the people from the far end of Tomlin's Grove, and a like number from Bow Road behind them; that when the people took refuge in the gardens of the houses in Tomlin's Grove they were dragged out and beaten, and that an old woman who saw this taking place in her garden was so much upset, that she fell down in a fit and died without regaining consciousness; that a boy of 18 was kicked and trampled on by the police and had to be taken to the hospital; that a publican who happened to be passing was knocked down and kicked by the police and one of his ribs broken; that the bandsmen's instruments were snatched away and thrown over the garden walls, some of them being damaged, and that the big drummer was knocked down and kicked by the police so that he is yet not properly recovered, and that his drum was taken from him and kicked about by the police.

These are serious matters which cannot be lightly passed over. They are yet far from being disposed of, and the Borough Council would do well to make clear how far they can be relieved of the responsibility.

The people of this Borough have waited patiently during five months for the right to use their own halls without restriction, to be given back to them, and from the public galleries, at Council meeting after Council meeting, they have listened to evasions and delays—at last their patience has been exhausted!

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

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WANTED, by member of E.L.F.S., Maternity nursing, or daily housework write Box 200.

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"DAILY CHRONICLE" ACCOUNT.

Bombs at Poplar Council Meeting. Police decline to interfere.

Wild scenes, in which East End Suffragists played a leading part, were witnessed at last night's meeting of Poplar Borough Council.

The throwing of a bag of evil-smelling blue substance into the centre of the Council Chamber, and the firing of a pistol, was apparently the signal for an outburst of violence, which has few equals in the history of the militant movement.

Cries of "Cowards" and other opprobrious epithets were hurled at members of the Council. At the same time a bag of offensive smelling blue substance hurtled through the air, and landed behind the reporters' table.

Barrier broken down.

Immediately the Council Chamber was in confusion. Scores of "stink bombs," bags of flour, stones, and other missiles were thrown at members from the gallery and the floor of the Chamber by members of a strong party of women identified with the East London Federation of Suffragettes.

Then the Suffragettes broke down the barrier dividing the public from the Council, and the members, in an endeavour to force them back, engaged in a hand-to-hand conflict with the women.

By this time the Suffragettes were spread all over the Chamber. One of them darted from point to point throwing water-bottles and glasses to the floor; others sprang to the chairs of Councillors, who had risen to counteract the sudden onslaught, and attempted to wield them as weapons of offence; others tore up agenda papers, while yet another section produced life-preservers.

Meanwhile, a strong force in the gallery continued to pour flour and other substances upon those below. Alderman Bussey was seen to be engaged in a strenuous tussle with two women, whilst Councillor Thorne was surrounded by infuriated women brandishing life-preservers. Shrieks, the smashing of glass, shouting, and the splintering of chairs added to the confusion, throughout which the Mayor calmly retained his seat. The police were sent for, but the Mayor was informed that they refused to enter the building, one message stating that they were insufficiently strong, and another that they could not interfere.

For fully a quarter of an hour the riotous proceedings continued, and when at length the majority of the members of the Council retired before the infuriated women, some had their clothing spoiled by chemicals, others were smothered in flour, whilst not a few complained of receiving blows. The Socialist members, however, remained to listen to the speeches of the Suffragettes, who had by this time taken possession of the Council Chamber. Addresses were given by Miss Zelie Emerson and others.

Mr. Lansbury angry.

Meanwhile a consultation was taking place behind closed doors, and eventually it was decided by the majority of the Council to return to the Chamber and pass a resolution to exclude the public from the meetings for three months. When the Mayor re-entered the Council Chamber he was greeted with shouts of derision, and for a time Miss Emerson refused to discontinue her harangue. At last Councillor Brown succeeded in moving the exclusion of the public for three months, the motion being declared carried.

Thereupon Mr. George Lansbury declared that the whole

(continued on page 2)

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Z. P. EMERSON,
Advertisement Manager.

The Woman's Dreadnought.

Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes,

321 ROMAN ROAD, BOW, E.

Telephone EAST 422.

Annual Subscription, post free 4s. 4d.

No. 3. Saturday, April 4th, 1914.

Bravely and Willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service.

SELF GOVERNMENT.

In the House of Commons, on Tuesday, March 31st, Sir Edward Grey said:—

"For a hundred years after the Union we tried to find a solution of the Irish question by force. We came to the conclusion that in the long run force was no solution. I am perfectly ready to admit that it makes me look with the greatest reluctance, almost with despair, at finding any solution of the Ulster question purely by the use of force. To embark upon a policy of actual coercion to make Ulster submit to an authority in Ireland, which she is determined to resist by force, is a most grave, serious, and ominous thing."

There is truth in these words: coercion cannot kill a struggle for self government, it cannot crush out the determination to fight for liberty in human hearts.

The members of the present Government are forever affirming this truth in eloquent and glowing words, but ever their practices are at variance with it, until they are absolutely forced to call a halt.

In the old days Gladstone used the harshest of coercion towards Roman Catholic Ireland. He only resorted to conciliation when he found that coercion was inflaming Ireland more than all the speeches of Davitt and Parnell.

When the Home Rule Bill was before the House last year, before Sir Edward Carson's army had been photographed by the picture papers, before the British Army officers began to go on strike,—the Government might have made the concessions to Ulster that they offer now, and also the further concessions that they may offer in the future.

They refused to do this, either because they thought that Ulster was neither strong enough nor determined enough to fight, or because all this battle in which they are pretending to engage with the Unionists is wholly, instead of being only partly, a sham. As it has grown little by little more probable that the Ulstermen will not merely indulge in abuse, but will put up a stout militant resistance, the speeches of Liberal leaders, which began with sneering and jocular contempt, have gradually grown more respectful to Ulster's claims.

This fact has its lesson for all those of us who are struggling to obtain self government for women. When are we going to force attention from a contemptious and reluctant Government?

How are we going to do it? That is what each one of us must ask ourselves. We need not imagine that we shall receive justice merely because we are in the right.

All over the world, all down the ages, people have toiled, fought and suffered for self government. Must we not show ourselves ready to do as much?

Never was the need for self government greater than it is amongst the women of our country at the present time. Millions of families are living hard lives and lack the barest necessaries and everywhere the women are even poorer than the men.

The strike at Morton's is over. After three weeks of deprivation and anxiety, the women have won, but they still work for the same sweated wages as before. Even those women who have worked in the factory from 20 to 30 years are still getting no more than 8s. to 10s. a week!

The excessive sickness amongst married working women that was always present taking its toll of misery, but has only just been brought to the notice of politicians by the Insurance Act, is caused by poverty and overwork.

The excessive infant mortality which is breaking the hearts of thousands of mothers, is due to the same things.

In France and Belgium the women sometimes burst forth in bread and meat riots in Hungary, in market riots and rent strikes. The women of this country have hitherto been quieter and more patient, yet they are suffering more than these others and will go on suffering as long as they remain content.

Bread riots, meat riots and rent strikes secure a temporary advantage, when carried out in a spasmodic way; but what women need most of all is the power to make laws by which they may regulate wages, housing, rents and prices, and to remould all the conditions under which they live. A strike which would win for them this large and general power, securely placed upon the statute book, instead of one detailed advantage which could at any time again be snatched away from them, would be abundantly worth while.

How shall the women of this country win political power? Neither by pleading, nor by argument, but by the people combining together in sufficient numbers in clamourous and militant demand.

Little Ulster has declared its intention of being militant, and whether its demands be right or wrong, it has checked and troubled the government as all the speechmaking in the world would have failed to do. And let us remember that, if it comes to fighting, it will not be merely Sir Edward Carson and the Army Officers on strike, and Mr. Redmond and the Nationalist M.P.s, who will fight and suffer, but those working people who in the past have rioted, and been injured in the streets over this same question, and who will be made tools of, whatever the issue of this struggle, because, in the main, it will make little or no difference to them. Ulster has for long had the Union that is supposed to be so essential to it, but the sweating in the Belfast mills and factories is as bad as that of Dublin.

East London Suffragettes are more numerous than Ulstermen. Freedom for the women of the country is a bigger ideal to battle for than the fight that the Ulstermen have on hand. There are enough of us Suffragists in East London if we stand together and make of use the right weapons, to win the vote. The "No vote no rent strike" is a powerful weapon to be making ready, but in the meantime, there are many things that we can do and the first of these is to go to Victoria Park next Sunday, April 5th.

To VICTORIA PARK.

On Saturday, April 4th, the Unionists are holding a demonstration in Hyde Park to protest against what they call the misuse of the Army in Ulster. It is appropriate that next day we should march to Victoria Park, the Hyde Park of East London, to protest against the misuse of Police force, to cry: "Down with Forcible Feeding and the Cat and Mouse Act," and to demand the Vote.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

VOTES WON IN MASSACHUSETTS.

The legislature of Massachusetts, one of the most conservative of the United States, has just decided by a vote of 164 to 39, to grant women full adult Suffrage on terms of equality with men. The people of Massachusetts are almost entirely of English, Irish or Scotch extraction.

DRUGGING IN HOLLOWAY.

In reply to questions in the House of Commons, Mr. McKenna denied that Miss Phyllis Brady and other hunger strikers had been drugged in Holloway.

The doctors who examined Miss Brady on her release, have made the following statement:—

Miss Brady was released from prison on March 25th, she had a typical bromide rash, and she excreted bromide on the 25th but not on the 26th, in proof of which we hold reports from a well-known pathological laboratory.

During the whole of her imprisonment, (30 days), Miss Brady had been on hunger strike and forcibly fed. Under these circumstances, since bromide is not normally to be found in the body, its presence in the secretions proves that bromides had been given to her in prison, and therefore without her knowledge or consent.—Yours faithfully

(Signed) FRANK MOXON, M.B., B.Sc.
FLORA MURRAY, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

GOVERNMENT'S SHARP PRACTICE.

LAST June Mr. Edwy Clayton, a consulting chemist, was sentenced to 21 months imprisonment for helping Miss Annie Kenny and others in Suffragette militancy. He was also ordered to find £141 costs of the Government prosecution, to be spent in paying fees to Sir Rufus Isaacs, Mr. Bodkin and others. To make the defendant pay the costs in criminal cases is most unusual.

The proceedings against Mr. Clayton had begun in May, and whilst his trial was pending he decided to sell his furniture, because the trial was ruining his trade. The business of disposing of his furniture was undertaken by Mrs. Ayres Purdie, who is well known as the only woman in London practising as a Chartered Accountant. Mrs. Purdie's husband is a second hand furniture dealer, so she had expert advice to hand. Mrs. Purdie gave Mr. Clayton £120 for his furniture. Mr. Clayton was afterwards convicted, and after being released on hunger strike disappeared.

When Mrs. Purdie came to dispose of the furniture, the police attended the sale and terrified the buyers by taking down the names of all who offered bids. In consequence only £97 was realised, and Mrs. Purdie lost £23 by the transaction.

On Wednesday, April 1st, the government took action agains Mrs. Ayres Purdie, declaring that the sale was fraudulent and void. She won the case, but has not got back her £23.

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thing was out of order, and on the Mayor declining to listen to him, he commenced throwing the Town Clerk's books and papers to the floor amidst screams and cheers from the Suffragettes. The Mayor left the chair, and for some time the Suffragettes and their supporters held possession of the Chamber, but eventually they left.

A ludicrous incident was the production of a formidable-looking dummy bomb, which an attendant carefully carried to a safe place.

WHAT HAPPENED AT THE COUNCIL MEETING.

Possibly on March 27th, the Poplar Borough Council awoke for the first time to the realisation that the refusal of the Public Halls for Suffrage meetings is really a matter of concern to the people of the Borough—a fact which peaceful deputations and argument persisted in for months, have failed to bring home to them.

The public galleries were filled with an audience eager to hear the debate adjourned from the last meeting. But before this began, a most significant discussion was raised on the uninvited appearance of the police on the previous evening at a meeting held in the Town Hall by the girls on strike at Morton's. The point was clear for all to see—the Council had condoned the action of the police in the Bow Baths raid, and now the police were pushing further this claim to enter meetings—a claim which should have been squashed at the outset. On the matter of the refusal of the Halls, Mr. Lansbury, in a splendid speech, put a perfectly unanswerable case, pointing out especially that the Council had never seriously enquired into the Bow Baths affair, but had assumed that the police were necessarily in the right in provoking the breach of order that occurred. The home truths were too much for the Councillors; it was clear that they intended neither to listen, nor to attempt an answer. Mr. Lansbury spoke to almost empty benches, but members trooped into the chamber again to vote by a large majority to closure the matter and "proceed to the next business." This next business was never reached, for now the storm burst. Cries of "shame" and "traitors" were heard on all sides, some reproaches of a more solid character were hurled, the floor of the house was invaded and several free fights took place there. The meeting was adjourned for a quarter of an hour. The protestors were left in possession, and used the time to full advantage. It seemed too good to be true! We were refused the Halls, but here we were making speeches denouncing the Council's action, without let or hindrance, in the very Council chamber itself! When the Mayor returned, it was quite clear that further business would be impossible, and the meeting broke up in confusion.

Scandalous, of course, to show so little regard for the dignity of the Council!—or was it rather that the Council had long ago forgotten its own dignity?

AMY M. HICKS.

An unknown eye witness handed the folowing brief but graphic account in at the door of our Editorial Office.

Comic scene at Poplar Borough Council. Half of the Councillors walking about picking the powder out of their eyes and ears and hair. The other half scrambling under the tables, or wherever they could, out of the way of the missiles. The Mayor standing and blowing his police whistle like a comet for all he was worth.

Another eye-witness reports that so far from "standing calmly" the Mayor "scuttled out with his robes held tightly around him."

Having put the hostile Councillors to flight the public left the building singing the Marseillaise.

An attendant observed to Miss Emerson "this meeting will go down in history!"

Mrs. PANKHURST opposes ASQUITH.

To avoid a General Election at the present moment, Mr. Asquith has become War Minister, and resigning his seat, will fight a bye-election in East Fife. It is certain that he expects to win, otherwise, he would have followed Mr. Gladstone's precedent and refused to give up his seat on taking double office. Mrs. Pankhurst has gone up to the constituency to fight against him on behalf of voteless women.

A GIRL'S SAD STORY.

On Wednesday, March 25th, an inquest was held on the four months old son of Mary Colley, who was said to be 16, but who declared that she was 18. The girl's mother has been in the London County Lunatic Asylum for two years. The girl's father is a warehouseman, he pays 7 - a week for his wife's keep in the Asylum and 13 - a week rent. The baby's father James Mills, is 19 years of age. The boy and girl were living at the time of the baby's death in one room in her father's house for which they paid 2 - a week. When the ignorant girl, went to a doctor and found that she was pregnant, the boy was out of work, but promised to marry her when he could afford it. Later he got work as a hat shaper at 14 - a week. Then he got his finger poisoned by the hat dye and fell out of work again. His hand is still in a splint. The girl's father did nothing to help them. The baby was born in Hackney Infirmary. It was always delicate and as it did not seem to thrive, its mother left off suckling it after a time and fed it with cow's milk and water and barley water, under directions given to her at the Infirmary. She bathed it night and morning and took it out twice a day. Three times on January 8th, February 18th, and March 6th, the Inspector of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children called, and each time he found the baby thin but clean.

Two weeks before the baby died it was taken ill with bronchitis and wasting. The girl took the child to the Children's Hospital, where the doctor asked her how she fed it. When she said that she gave it half milk and half water and a little barley water, he said: "that's right" and gave her Scott's Emulsion for the baby and a sleeping draught "because it cried so." The baby had fits whilst it was in the doctor's arms.

On March 22nd the girl went to take the baby out of its cot to feed it, and thought it looking "strange." She snatched it up and ran with it to the nearest doctor who said: "I think it is too late, but I'll see what I can do." He succeeded in reviving the baby and getting it to breath properly and after keeping it in the surgery for half-an-hour told the mother to take it home and wrap it in a blanket with a hot water bottle. Three hours later the baby again suddenly collapsed. The girl ran for the doctor but he found that it was dead.

The baby was very thin. It only weighed 6 lbs. 11 ozs. It was very sore and raw, where it had wet itself, poor little thing, although its mother had rubbed it with Fuller's earth and vaseline, and for a change, "starch powder" that she bought from the chemist as she said pathetically, "for a baby's bottom, my young man's sister told me it was good."

At the inquest it was said that she had not nursed and cared for the baby properly in spite of the S.P.C.C. inspector's testimony. But if that were the case, the hospital authorities ought to have ordered the baby to be treated as an in-patient. The girl said she had spent all day attending to the baby.

The girl's father said that she was born in June, 1897, not yet 17 years ago. He was told that he had rendered himself liable to prosecution under the Children's Act.

The Jury asked that the whole matter be referred to the Commissioner of Police. Meanwhile the girl is on the brink of destitution. Can anyone help her to get work? The boy has gone to stay at his parents house for fear of a prosecution.

SWEATED DRUDGERY.

One hundred and twenty women and girls successfully struck work at Josephs' rag-sorting factory in Earl Street, London Road, S.E., because of the introduction of a new bonus system of wages. They were asked to pick 5 cwt. of rags for 13s. a week, and 1s. a cwt. bonus to be paid three weeks after it was earned. They said that the new system would considerably reduce their average wage.

The bonus system is frequently used by employers of labour to evade the Truck Act regulations in regard to excessive fines, the bonus being granted only on condition that every regulation is agreed to.

An employer, who knocks several shillings off a woman's wage, because she has been a few minutes late, or has committed some tiny fault, is saved from prosecution if he is merely refusing a bonus, but can be punished if this is done by way of an excessive fine. Women factory inspectors have protested against this system for years past, and have called urgently for an amendment in the law, but what can voteless women do?

The women and girls of Cooper's collar factory, in Bermondsey, have come out on strike, to prevent the cutting down of prices. A foreman gave one of the little girl a small order, offering her 2s. 10d. a gross, instead of the usual price of 3s. 1d. She refused that work because the price had been cut down, and asked for something else to do, but was discharged. She told her story to the other women in the factory, and the best paid workers, earning from 15s. to 17s. a week, and numbering about 100, came out on strike to support her.

The more poorly paid workers, earning from 11s. to 12s., decided to remain at work. Presumably, their hard struggle for existance, which has made it impossible for them to live in reasonable comfort, much less to save for a rainy day, has left them with less independence of spirit and confidence in their own efforts and fortunes than is possessed by their comrades, who are less badly paid.

The employers have refused to receive representatives of the Federation of Women Workers, to which the women belong, and in reply to the strike have reduced the prices on six other classes of work. The dispute has thus spread to the remaining 200 poorly paid workers.

TRADE UNIONS OR VOTES?

A writer in the *Daily Herald* says:—"Your report of the poor man, at Willesden, who only earned 15s. a week, with a wife and family to support, gives us food for reflection.

"If, as some suffragists say, votes will raise women's wages, why does not the vote raise the wages of the thousands of poorly paid men, who, because they are outside their Union, have to take what they can get."

The answer is: That working men have not used their votes as they might have done in their own interests. Working women have the right to try what they can do for themselves.

WOMEN WORKERS CONFER.

A Conference on Women's Suffrage and Women's Work and Wages, at which sixty-seven Societies were represented, was held on Saturday, March 28th, at the Essex Hall, Strand.

The first Resolution adopted was as follows:—

"That in the opinion of this Conference the present industrial position of women is intolerable, because of their systematic and organized underpayment, and also because of their exclusion from the better paid positions in trade and professional life. We affirm that this underpayment and exclusion is directly the result of their exclusion from the Franchise, and we demand that the Government shall go to the root of the matter and right a great industrial and economic wrong, by passing an immediate measure of Womens Suffrage."

After moving the Resolution, Miss Eva Gore Booth said that women suffered from two great wrongs. Want of equal opportunities and want of equal wages. So many women and men were doing exactly the same work, the women getting far less wages. In the cotton trade the women were as good as the men at the work, and it was the one trade in the country in which they were paid at the same piece-work rates. But even there the women were not allowed to do any of the best work. A spinner could get £2 per week, but no women were permitted to be spinners. They could be "piecers" under the spinner, and it was well known that the spinner could read the *Sporting Times* while the piecer did the work for which she got only 13s.

A woman Doctor could get the same money as a man if she dealt directly with the public, but if she got a government appointment she received much lower wages than a man who did the same work.

Miss Reddish said that for over 20 years she worked as under reeler in a Lancashire cotton mill at 10s. to 15s. a week, which was exactly half the pay of the men who did exactly the same work as she. Then she got a job for 17s. per week, for which the man got 26s. After that she was employed as over-looker in a hosiery warehouse at 24s. per week. She was at first in charge of about 50 women and girls. She had to examine the work, engage and discharge the girls, when necessary, audit the books, pay the wages and book the work. Later the number of women under her rose to 150, and after some time she asked for assistance. Without consulting her as to what kind of help she needed, her employers then placed a man at the desk to do the books and pay the wages, for this they paid him 30s., though she had only got 26s. for doing the work now given to the man, as well as all the rest.

The second resolution was:—

"That this Conference holds that there can be no just or equal treatment for the large number of women employed directly or indirectly by the government, until they have the right granted to their men colleagues, of electing the House of Commons, and thus influencing those on whom the conditions of their employment depend."

Miss Roper stated that it was to the interest of the community to pay the women higher wages, because the excessive sickness amongst women was largely caused by low wages. Women could not possibly get the necessary things of life, much less any luxuries.

Miss Dawson, a school teacher, deplored the lack of women Inspectors of Schools.

JESSIE LANSBURY.

HUNGRY CHILDREN.

In the week ending March 20th, 4,986 London children went so hungry to school, that the London County Council Care Committees were obliged to provide them with food. Most of these children had probably nothing to eat but that one school meal each day, and this meal cost little more than a penny, although the contractor made a profit out of it!

The salaries of the Care Committee staff are as follows:—One "principal organiser" at £350, rising to £500 per annum; two "principal assistants" at £200, rising to £250; twelve "district organisers" at £130, rising to £200; sixty-seven "assistant organisers" at £100, rising to £130 (twelve of whom are to start at £118); twenty-nine "women clerical assistants" at £80, rising to £110. Note the very great difference between the women's salaries and those of the men. We are inclined to believe that had the matter been placed in the hands of a capable woman principal organiser, several of these salaries might have been saved altogether. But the saddest aspect of the case is, that in the richest City of the world, so many children should be destitute. It is, indeed, time that women were called in to help in making the conditions under which their children live!

JULIA DECIES.

The Court of Criminal Appeal has refused to reduce the cruel sentence passed upon Julia Decies. The Lord Chief Justice states that the Court does not consider the sentence passed upon her too severe. The Lord Chief Justice is Sir Rufus Isaacs who made so much money ont of prosecuting the Suffragettes. Mr. McKenna has also refused to help this poor woman.

Last Friday, March 27th, a painter was sentenced to six months imprisonment at the Central Criminal Court, for cutting the throat of a woman with whom he was living, so that she nearly bled to death.

On March 28th, at the Central Criminal Court, a labourer attacked his wife, who had left him to mind someone else's children, and was bound over in his own recognisances for £5 to come up for judgment if called upon.

Many politicians were interrupted, Bishops interviewed, prayers offered up in the Churches and speeches made in restaurants during the week.

The W.S.P.U. states that the smashing of the Rokeby Venus, by Mary Richardson, has given to this picture a "human and historic interest which has given it a new value as a national treasure."

SUFFRAGETTE FIRES.

Abbeylands, a house belonging to General Sir Hugh McCalmont, near Belfast, valued at £20,000; two houses at Handsworth, near Birmingham, a haystack at Chorlton near Manchester, and pillar boxes in Belfast and at Preston and Norwich, have been burnt during the week.

THE LATEST MARTYR.

Sir John Simon, the Attorney General, speaking to the Men's Liberal Association for Women's Suffrage in Manchester the other day, said, amidst cheers, that "though a man may be a member, of this Liberal Government, that does not absolve him from declaring in the face of the public that he is a believer in Woman's Suffrage." The words sound as though they were a confession of faith delivered by a martyr at the stake! But Sir John was careful to state that he did not come as a member of the Government, as that would have given a significance to his words that he was very far from wishing to imply. He said that Mr. Asquith who was leading Liberals "from victory to victory, though not himself personally convinced of the justice of this particular issue, is none the less exerting himself to the utmost in order to provide the fullest and fairest opportunity in what may turn out to be the most effective way."

This of course is a deliberate lie, for all that Mr. Asquith has said is, that he is going to introduce another Reform Bill for men only, in which women can have no part whatsoever, and to which there cannot even be a Private Member's amendment, which he before promised the Government would render possible and would make part of the Bill, if it were carried by a majority of the House. He has also withdrawn his promise that the Government will make itself responsible for a Private Member's Bill for Woman Suffrage, after this has passed its second reading.

Sir John Simon spoke of militancy as an obstacle to women's enfranchisement; but what about Sir Edward Carson and Ulster?

POLICE NEGLECT.

On March 21st, a sixteen year old girl, Lily May Jones of Merthyr Tydfil, was sent to prison for six months for obtaining goods value £5 8s., on false pretences. She had been charged before. The magistrate said, "All attempts at reforming you will have to be given up. No-one seems to know what will become of you."

What a confession of failure this is?

But how can anyone expect to reform those who are sent to prison, until our bad prison system itself has been reformed.

The magistrate failed, as magistrates always do, to ask under what conditions this child and her parents were living.

At Ilford, last week, Clara Smith, a servant girl aged 20, was sent to prison for 21 days for obtaining 1s. 6d. on false pretences.

At Stratford, George Reader and Edward Cope, labourers, were sent to prison for 21 days for knocking down Lily Gregory, a domestic servant, striking her in the face, and kicking her whilst she was lying on the ground. They had followed her about and annoyed her on several previous occasions.

On Thursday, March 25th, an inquest was held on Mrs. Annie Champs, a poor woman aged 62 years. She suffered from heart complaint, and on going out about 2 on the previous Saturday afternoon, she fell unconscious in the street. She was arrested and taken to the police station where she was charged with being drunk and incapable. At 6 p.m. the station sergeant noticed that "she was frothing at the mouth and snoring heavily." The police surgeon was called and she was removed to the infirmary, where she died on the following Monday without regaining consciousness, from coma, due to hoemorrhage of the brain.

This sort of thing is very common. It is a scandal that our police arrangements should be so bad as to make such happenings possible.

A POLICEMAN'S LETTER.

March 27th, 1914.

Dear Editor,—During the past few months articles have appeared in the *Suffragette* criticising the police generally. You might be interested to learn that you have the sympathy and support of the majority of the intellectual section of the police. Being poor, they are made the tools of those in authority. Take, for example, the Sussex case. This is going on in every police force in the United Kingdom in some degree. We are the last vestige of aristocratic despotism. We are unorganised and helpless.

The police do not mind being hard hit, in fact they get used to it from their own people, or form of administration, but be fair. Your recent adverse criticism of Special Branch Officers was very unfair. Every member of the Special Branch, with the exception of one, commenced his career in the ordinary way, in the uniform branch of the service, the exception being in the civil service, he was too short for the uniform branch, and, in consequence of his knowledge of languages, entered the Special Branch on joining. The members of the Special Branch are not foreigners, with the exception of two of its members—one Dutch and one German. They are appointed for possessing some extra qualifications. They are employed at various ports in Belgium, France and Holland, watching for White Slave traffickers and flash thieves. Through them thousands of young girls of various nationalities have been saved from ruin and disgrace, assisted, and restored to their parents and friends. It is quite untrue to say they are sent to Paris to learn spying.

Abuse has crept into the branch by some men of poor character joining it, through influence. Here is a case in point:—A certain constable in the A Division was stationed at Cannon Row (a place now well known to suffragettes) for seven or eight years; during this time no less than five affiliation orders were made against him at various courts in the Metropolis. It was his proud boast that he successfully defended two other cases which were attributed to him. During this short period of service he had also been reported several times and punished for misconduct and neglect of duty, also for assaulting another officer. His lustfulness was well known. One would be inclined to think that this prurient sexualist and criminal would have been dismissed from the service. What would you think happened? A few years ago he was pitchforked into the Special Branch, to the disgust of its respectable members. He was shortly afterwards recommended to the Commissioner as a respectable man and promoted to sergeant. This officer assaulted a well-known man supporter of Votes for Women a few months ago. He has now been transferred to a continental port, to watch White Slave traffickers and protect girls. What a man for the post! A few discreet enquiries at Cannon Row Police Station will verify the above.

DISGUSTED.

It was reported that on Thursday night, after the Council meeting, twelve panes of glass at the works of Mr. Marsland, printer, of Bow Road, were broken, and damage was also done to the windows of the lodging-house next door by the Suffragettes, but this was a mistake.

All Women are invited to join the

East London Federation of the SUFFRAGETTES.

DISTRICT REPORTS.

POPLAR.

Office .. ..319 EAST INDIA DOCK ROAD.
Organiser .. .. .. MISS M. PATERSON.

Dreadnought distribution has kept members busy all the week. They also worked up a good crowd to be present at the Council Meeting on Thursday. Report of the proceedings there appear elsewhere. A meeting of *Dreadnought* distributors was held at the Office on Saturday afternoon, and the following Districts were arranged :—

1. Upper North Street District (1,000 copies)—Mrs. Bird.
2. Kerbey Street District (400 copies)—Mrs. Schlette.
3. Grundy Street District (300 copies)—Mrs. Neuss.
4. Chrisp Street District (600 copies)—Mrs. Fyffe.
5. High Street District (200 copies)—Mrs. Organ.

Different streets in each district will be done each week, so that the same householders do not get free papers every week. In addition to above districts, Millwall is being opened up by Mrs. Bird and Mrs. Neuss, who are taking 700 papers there, and Mrs. Walker is undertaking Cubitt Town. The Abbott Road District has not yet been definitely allocated though many streets in it have been done by various helpers. East India Dock Road and High Street have been done by Miss Hicks and Miss Petersen. Fourty-nine copies of *Dreadnought* sold at meetings up to last Friday, and Miss Winnie Long sold 32 more copies at the Dock gates on Sunday morning.

All members please come in good time for Sunday's Procession. Those who are carrying banners *must* be there by 3.15 sharp, as no one can form up until the banners are in their places.

Dreadnought sellers are also needed.

BOW AND BROMLEY.

Organiser:—MRS. IVES,
321 Roman Road, Bow, E.

Bow and Bromley well represented at the Borough Council Meeting at Poplar when Councillors were put to flight, also at excellent meeting held outside. Members are asked to call at shop for *Dreadnought* selling and distribution. *Dreadnoughts* sold on pitches (not including Abbey procession) in week ending Friday, March 20th, 186, in shop, 184. Abbey procession 345. Sold out long before we got there. Sales are going well this week. Thanks to those who have undertaken to sell at stations, etc. Members and friends are asked to remember meetings at Out and Out Mission every Tuesday, Crowder's Hall, Wednesday, Drill and Elocution, Monday, and Members meetings at 28 Ford Road, Thursday afternoons and Friday evenings.

HOUSE TO HOUSE.

Member's Distribution List for week ending Friday, March 20th:—Mrs. W. Lansbury, 500; Mrs. Burton, 500; Mrs. McCheyne, 400; Mrs. Martin, 400; Mrs. O'Connell, Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Bailey, 300; Miss Hayday and Miss Vernham, 300; Mrs. Weaver, 200; Mrs. Carlisle, 200; Mrs. Mantle, 200; Mrs. Hope, 150; Mrs. Watkins, 150; Mrs. Pascoe, 100.

SOUTH WEST HAM.

Hon. Sec...MRS. DAISY PARSONS,
94 Ravenscroft Road.

Good meetings held at Freemason's Road and Beckton Road, 11 and 21 *Dreadnoughts* sold at these meetings. Good attendance at Member's Meeting on Thursday evening. Thanks to members who sell and distribute *Dreadnoughts* more still needed. 126 *Dreadnoughts* were sold in the week ending Friday, March 20.

Canning Town, District Leaders :—Mrs. Millo, 1 Ravenscroft Road; Miss Tate, 37 Tyas Road; Miss Kates, 8 Walter Street. Distributors: Mrs. Sands, Mrs. Roper, Mrs. Pountney, Mrs. Hockham.

Custom House, District Leaders:—Mrs. Drake, 49 Crediton Road; Miss Leggett, 74 Chauntler Road. Distributors: Mrs. Ward, Mrs. and Miss Laurence.

Tidal Basin, District Leader : — Miss Penn. Distributors: Miss Greenleaf, Misses A. and L. Kelsey.

Silvertown, District Leader : — Miss Grimes, 27 Newland Street.

OTHER EAST LONDON SOCIETIES.

Bow R. S. P. U.

Hon. Organiser: Mr. A. Brine,
101 St. Stephen's Road, Bow.
Hon. Secretary: Mr. J. Bonarius,
89 Wyke Road, Monier Road, Bow.

Members Meeting every Friday, 8.30 at Crowder's Hall, 173 Bow Road, E. Social at Libra Hall, Saturday, April 4th.

Hackney, Kingsland & Stoke Newington M.P.U.

Hon. Secretary: Mr. Eric W. Roberts.
Acting Hon. Sec.: Mr. W. Myers,
36 Kerbeller Street, Bethnal Green.

Membership increasing fast. Sale of *Woman's Dreadnought* has exceeded all expectations.

Meetings arranged :—
Saturday, April 4th—
Highbury Corner. 8.0 p.m.
Mr. Allan Clark, Mr. W. Cullen
Chair : Mr. W. Budd.
Sunday, April 5th—
Ridley Road (High Street. Kingsland), 12.30 noon.
Mr. Harry King, Mr. Eric Roberts, Mr. Allan Clark, Mr. W. Cullen and Opposition.
Tuesday, April 7th—
Business Meeting at the "Goldsmith's Arms," 8.0 p.m.
Goldsmith Row, Hackney Road.

WOMEN IN HUNGARY.

BY A HUNGARIAN.

I am very grateful to Miss Sylvia Pankhurst for asking me to write something about the social and political position of women in Hungary, for the *Women's Dreadnought*. I am grateful, partly because it was a ripening ambition in the depths of my heart to say something on the Continental Woman Question, and partly because I wish to point out some of the reasons why suffragist militancy amongst women has not as yet developed in the slightest degree on the Continent. Also how it is that the Continental press treats the militant suffragettes of the British Isles as unwomanly and curious monsters of incomprehensible political ideas. The fact is that even the papers published for women are treating the question of militancy as they do such funny and curious facts as, for instance, the story of a mother giving birth to five sons within an hour's time, or that of a goat, whose head is that of a sheep and back part that of a monkey.

The feminist movement on the Continent is supposed to be opposed to militancy, yet in the recesses of their hidden feelings and convictions it is greatly militant. This I saw in the great Hall of the Vigado at the International Feminist Congress at Budapest last year, when an American speaker mentioned the name of Mrs. Pankhurst, for I do not believe that I ever heard a name cheered so heartily as those two thousand women and men, members of the "anti-militant" feminist congress, cheered then. These men and women knew, just as well as the militants, that Mrs. Pankhurst and her courageous and brave followers, who are suffering martyrdom, have done more for the cause of feminism than all the congresses national and international, since the woman's movement began ever did or ever will do. For, you see, the vivid description of a woman's sufferings on hunger strike, or her forcible feeding—which every Continental paper publishes, on account of its human interest—turns more sympathy towards woman's aspirations than all the congresses you can imagine. I know this myself from the letters I received after having written some articles in the Hungarian daily I represent in London, telling about the story of Miss Moorhead's forcible feeding, and the sufferings of other suffragettes in Holloway and other English gaols.

So one fact stands clear, that the sensational deeds of English suffragettes have raised an unlimited interest in the woman question on the Continent, which would never have been brought about but by militancy; for because of militancy the press has had to publish details of imprisonments, speeches before courts, etc., which have kept the interest alive from time to time. The fact that feminists at the International Congress made speeches containing strong and harsh words against militancy, and yet that deafening cheer was heard when Mrs. Pankhurst's name was mentioned, shows that those present were well aware that she is the one who has done most for them, even if, as some have said, her ways of doing it are "unwomanly and despicable." It is the story of the mother being thrown out of the house, whilst the children with weeping and crying run after her, to kiss the folds of her dress.

* * * *

As for the woman in Hungary, the feminist movement—thanks to Miss Bedi-Schwimmer—is developing fairly, but only amongst the middle-class people, for the working women are in the clutches of the Socialist party, which is—for the time being—opposed to women's suffrage for the simple reason that not even the men have got the vote yet. "First the men, and then women," they say, and forget that with the same energy, with which they fight for men's suffrage they could just as well take up the interests of the other sex at the same time.

But the fact is, that Hungary being somewhat of an Eastern State (its people originating from somewhere beneath the Hymalayas in Asia), women to whatever class they may belong, are there looked upon, more or less, either as creatures of lust or ornament, or as mere household necessities. The majority of Hungarian women, having been brought up in this spirit, take their lot as they get it, and as most of them hear nothing of social or political rights, it will take another half-a-century before they come to understand anything about them.

Hungary, as you know, is an agricultural land, where women do hard-labouring work in the fields, as they do in Scotland. In the towns and cities the working women are employed in factories and as domestic servants. I believe their earnings to be higher than the average of working women's earnings in England. This must not be thought to prove that Hungary has better economic conditions, but must be attributed merely to a shortage in the supply of women's labour. It may sound strange, but as a matter of fact, peasant girls and working women emigrate from Hungary by tens of thousands yearly, partly to Canada, partly to U.S.A., and thus the city ladies are glad to get a servant girl at £2 a month. There are certain periods of the year—especially at harvest—when you cannot get a servant girl at all. In the factories women earn from 16s. to 20s. a week, about as much as in England, and the office work of women is also paid at about the same rates as in England. Only the household work is paid higher, as I mentioned above, because of the difficulty of obtaining women to do it.

The greatest social troubles of Hungarian working women are the high rents and dear food. The rents in the cities are abnormally great, and I do not believe there is another city in the world, where rents are so high as in Budapest. For a room and kitchen, on the outskirts, people pay £1 7s. or £1 10s. a week, and anyone paying £1 is considered lucky. The prices of food are also very high, and you can see daily women rioting in the markets, and rent strikes in great tenement houses, in which they usually decorate the courtyards with coloured shawls, flags and brooms, hanging from the linen lines, and cry out with horrible caterwauling, so as to attract the attention of passers-by, who usually join in with horns and other horrible instruments.

This is the only militancy that I have ever seen on the part of women in Hungary.

JOSEPH SZEBENYEI.

Readers of the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT will be glad to read Mr. Joseph Szebenyei's article.

It is always interesting to learn what people in other countries say and think of us. When one hears that the continental papers treats news of the English Suffrage agitation as being as "*funny*" as the things which Mr. Szebenyei mentions, one cannot help wondering whether it is not just that curious lack of insight and imagination which makes unnatural abortion appear to some people a thing for laughter, that also renders it impossible for them to comprehend zeal and self-sacrifice for an ideal. But, under the cynical gibes, and timidly conventional repudiations of those who are afraid to reveal the "recesses of their hidden feelings and convictions," the fact that women are willing to bear for their cause such sufferings as that of Miss Ethel Moorhead, goes home to the dull and the timid, and conventional, as well as to open-minded and large-hearted people, who, like Mr. Szebenyei, are glad to bear generous and courageous testimony to the fact that militant effort and sacrifice have done more for the world wide woman's movement than all the congresses that ever were.

Mr. Szebenyei's statement that it will take fifty years to teach the majority of Hungarian women anything of political and social liberty is a dismal one. We wonder what the women in the Hungarian Suffrage Movement may have to say to it. We wonder whether those concerned would concur in the view that the desire for enfranchisement has not yet reached the working women of the country, and that the Labour and Socialist organisations will not work for votes for women as well as for votes for men. If these things are as Mr. Szebenyei sees them, they are deeply to be regretted. The task before the women of Hungary is indeed infinitely hard.

Mr. Szebenyei's estimate of the wages earned by English women is, unfortunately, too high. We wish we could agree that the earnings of women factory workers in this country vary from 16s. to 20s. a week. We fear that 8s. to 16s. is nearer the average.

Unhappily, we know that in this country the average full time wage of women textile workers, over 18 years, who are, amongst the best paid factory workers, is 15s. 5d. a week; and that women's wages in the clothing trades average 13s. 6d.; under public bodies 14s. 6d.; and in light iron castings 10s. The weekly earnings for full time work of girls under 18 average, in textiles, 8s. 11d.; clothing 5s. 9d.; public utilities 8s. 2d.; metal engineering and shipbuilding 7s. 4d. These are amongst the more highly paid trades. At Morton's provision factory, where the strike has been, the wages of women over 18, in various departments, ranged from 8s. to 12s. The *New Statesman* estimates that three-fourths of the girls under 18, in the millinery and clothing workshops earn less than 3s. for a full week's work. The same paper gives the average full time wage of women at brush making as 8s. to 9s.; cap making, 10s. to 12s.; collar making, 14s.; envelope folding, 12s. to 16s.; fancy leather and bag trade, 12s. to 14s.; pattern card mounting, 10s. to 12s. From what I have heard and seen of women's work of this kind in East London, these averages seem to me higher than is the case, but, remember, they are all for full time work, and short time is prevalent in these trades.

Stray Thoughts on Morton's Strike.

The girls employed by Messrs. C. & E. Morton have put up a plucky fight, and have returned to work on the understanding that girls under eighteen are not to be put on the drawing presses.

The dispute had a wider application than this particular factory and incidentally illustrates how our legislators leave innumerable loop holes by which the benefits of legislation may be neutralised. Under the Trades Boards Act, the Committee is at the moment discussing the fixing of a minimum wage in the tin box, and confectionery trades. This wage when fixed applies to girls over eighteen. It will thus be seen that the employment of girls under that age will nullify the minimum rate.

Another loop hole has been discovered in connection with a strike of girls at a collar factory at Camberwell. A rate has been fixed by the Trades Board, and the employer has reduced the wages of all girls above the minimum to that rate.

The great feature of Morton's strike was the spirit of comradeship and determination which the girls exhibited. Everything was done in a business-like manner, and there was no slackness in performing any of the duties whether these were picketing or collecting.

Indirectly I attribute a considerable amount of the spirit shown, to the Suffrage movement. Not that any of the girls were enthusiastic advocates of votes for women, but the grit of the Suffrage Women everywhere had awakened a consciousness of their own value in each of the strikers. Further, the example of women standing on platforms advocating reforms from a woman's standpoint had given several of the strikers the self confidence to get up and speak concerning their grievances.

Over 900 girls and women have joined their trade union, the Federation of Women Workers, and under the capable guidance of Miss Mary McArthur and Miss Weaver they should remain a well organised body. The effect on other factories should be good, and an extension of women's industrial organisation in the East End can be confidently looked forward to.

From this, it is but a step to demanding political liberty, as has been the case with the male trade unionists.

The latter has been very much to blame for neglecting the question of women in industry. Mostly he has been jealous and often, as in the printing trades, he has tried to keep women out of industry. Had he insisted on equal pay for equal work, and, where technical training was necessary, the same training for both sexes, the low rates of pay prevailing among women would not exist; women forced to earn a living took whatever wages were offered, with the consequence that they elbowed men out in many cases, and have undoubtedly reacted unfavourably on men's wages.

In some districts industries have been introduced for women, because of staple industries for men existing the extra family income has kept men quiet. In Birmingham for example the wages paid to women in the textile industry are below the Lancashire level, so women are made the victims.

The male trade unionist is, of course, no worse than his middle-class brother, in law, medicine, etc., but it is time he woke up. He should insist that his daughter should have the same opportunity of being trained as a human being as his son, because she is human. He will see that his son joins a trade union. He should do the same for his daughter.

The women at Morton's, however, have set a good example, and the event may be regarded as a step forward in the women's movement in the East End. It is but a step, but it heralds a greater dawn when women will take their rightful place in the social, political, and industrial work of the world.

It is in essence a victory for the principles of the Suffragettes.

JULIA SCURR.

Printed by E. H. Williams (Regd T.U.), 232 Devons Road, Bow, E., and Published by the East London Federation of the Suffragettes, at their offices, 321 Roman Road, Bow, E.

BRITISH MUSEUM 28 APR 14

THE

HUNGER AND THIRST STRIKE

AND ITS EFFECTS.

Increasingly wearying and painful grows the Hunger and Thirst Strike with every "Cat and Mouse" repetition.

One is generally more or less bruised and knocked about in being re-arrested, and the strong force of the police having compelled one back to prison, one finds oneself in the cell again, feeling weak and cold and sick the first night.

One may do what one can to protest; one may refuse to lie on the bed and determine to walk up and down all the night; but faintness overpowers one, and every now and then one falls or stumbles involuntarily to one's knees with blackness and pain and rushing noises. Stealthy drowsiness creeps over one as the first acuteness of the faint passes, and one dozes a few moments, to wake cramped and stiff, and drag oneself to one's feet.

But if, finding protest useless, one lies down on the bed, one cannot sleep; it is so cold. If one takes the hot-water bottle that the wardress probably offers, it seems only to burn, not warm, one place, and leaves that place cold as before when it is moved. There are pains in the back and limbs, and the head aches.

At half past five in the morning, when the wardress opens the cell door to see that all is well before she goes off duty, one is still awake; but after that one falls into a hazy half sleeping, half waking state which lasts, perhaps, for an hour or two, perhaps for the greater part of the day, in spite of the passing in and out of wardresses and cleaners, and the visits of the doctor, governor, and matron.

If one remains quiescent, the time passes mostly between this dull drowsiness of the day, which is dispelled by periodical attacks of acuter pain, and the restless wakefulness and more frequent pain of the night. Perhaps one seems a little better the second day and night, but gradually the feeling of weakness and illness grows. One's mouth and throat are terribly parched. One's tongue is dry, hot and rough, and thickly coated. The saliva becomes more and more thick and yellow, and a bitter tasting phlegm keeps coming up into one's mouth. It is so nasty that it makes one retch violently, as though one were going to be sick, but sick one cannot be.

The urine is each day more scanty. It is thick and dark, and passed with difficulty. The bowels do not move during the whole time one is in prison.

There is great pain in the small of the back, pain in the chest, and a sharp stinging liver pain in the right breast. Griping pains come suddenly in the stomach and abdomen.

One sees each day that one has grown thinner, that the bones are showing out more and more clearly, and that the eyes are grown more hollow.

The circulatory system is out of order. The skin looks goose-fleshy and shrivelled. The hands and feet are dull purple with bright red splashes.

If one leaves one's bed one grows faint and giddy, and as the days pass there comes at last a constant singing in the ears when one is lying flat, which changes, if one stands up, to a deafening roaring noise, and pressure in the head and in the ears as one breathes. As one holds one's breath one seems to hear the pulses in the head throb with the beating of the heart.

The pulse becomes quick and irregular. One has palpitations and pain in the region of the heart. If one refuses to lie and take things quietly, all these symptoms are aggravated, and the imprisonment becomes a nightmare-like torture of pain and misery, the actual danger to life being greatly increased.

Some hunger and thirst strikers develop nervous diseases, such as Chorea or St. Vitus' Dance. The nervous system of all must necessarily undergo a severe strain.

When one is told that the order for release on a week's license has come, one is asked to take some nourishment before leaving the prison. The officials frequently offer all sorts of things to eat, but, if one is wise, one drinks first some hot water, and afterwards a small quantity of hot water and milk in equal proportions.

As soon as one has begun to drink the hot water, one's face and hands and arms become hot and fiery red. One forgets one's weakness in the excitement of being free to leave the barred window and the iron door, and those four small walls of whitened brick, to go home to friends and work again.

That first night out of prison, sleeping draughts prove useless. All the pulses throb, one is hot or cold. Eager thoughts, plans for work, hopes, fears and worries crowd into one's brain. Pains now, with everything at hand to ease them, seem more acute than when one was in gaol.

Next day one feels as though one had been under a steam roller. Too weak to sit up without someone to help one, and wanting to lie all the time quite flat. It will probably be a week before one can stand without feeling faint.

It is long before the digestive functions are again in working order. For at least a week, frequently for much longer, it is impossible to obtain a natural motion of the bowels. Acute flatulence persists indefinitely and headaches come almost daily for some time. Pimples on the face and body are frequent, and small pimples frequently cover the scalp. Dry eczema-like patches often appear

on the skin. For many days after release one's hands and wrists are often swollen and burning like a chilblain, except when they are cold. For a few days the extremites remain very red, then grow to look bloodless and waxlike. Heart and nervous symptoms frequently persist for some considerable time. Even after apparent recovery a number of illnesses may develop months after her Thirst and Hunger Strike. Miss Gladys Evans, who had been imprisoned in Mountjoy Prison, in Ireland, was found to be suffering from a serious Kidney trouble, which her medical adviser stated to be the result of the Thirst Strike. Appendicitis is constantly looked for by the hunger strikers' doctors.

All this because the Government does not wish to give women the vote!

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

A doctor who has attended many of the Hunger Strikers sends me the following:—

EFFECTS PRODUCED BY HUNGER AND THIRST STRIKE.

Nervous Shock; Emaciation; Weakness; Heart Trouble; Anæmia; Dyspepsia; Jaundice; Constipation; Cystitis.

EFFECTS WHICH ARE TO BE FEARED.

Heart Failure; Appendicitis; Uraemic Coma; Convulsions; Displacement of Organs (through los of internal fat) Mental Derangement.

Issued by the EAST LONDON FEDERATION of the SUFFRAGETTES, 321 Roman Road, Bow, E.,
and Printed by E. H. WILLIAMS (T.U.), 232 Devons Road, Bow, E.